

Public Notice of Exceptional Event:
Ozone NAAQS Exceedances Occurring June 8 and 9, 2015
Uinta Basin of Utah
Prepared by: Ute Indian Tribe of the Uinta and Ouray Reservation
U. S. EPA Region 8
Utah State University Bingham Energy Center
Utah Division of Air Quality

Event Details

The Ute Indian Tribe of the Uinta and Ouray Reservation operates ozone monitors at four locations, Myton, Whiterocks, Ouray and Redwash. These four monitors recorded their highest and second highest 8-hour ozone in 2015 on June 8 and 9. Data presented in the Technical Support Document (TSD) show that the high ozone recorded on those days was unseasonably high, not consistent with historical readings and patterns, and that they coincided with the intrusion of stratospheric air into the troposphere contributing ozone to the surface measurements. With this demonstration, the Ute Indian Tribe is requesting that the EPA concur on stratospheric ozone exceptional event flags the tribe has applied to the impacted data in the Air Quality System database, and that the EPA exclude the exceedances caused on June 8 and 9, 2015 by stratospheric intrusion from calculations of ozone exceedances and violations for 2015.

Definition of Exceptional Event

The U. S. Environmental Protection Agency promulgated the Exceptional Events Rule (EER) in 2007, pursuant to the 2005 amendment of Clean Air Act (CAA) Section 319. The EER includes definitions, criteria for the EPA approval, procedural requirements, and requirements for air agency demonstrations, all of which must be met before the EPA can concur on the exclusion of air quality data from regulatory decisions. Specifically, the air agency must provide evidence that:

- The event affects air quality; the event is not reasonably controllable or preventable; and the event is caused by human activity that is unlikely to recur at a particular location or is a natural event;
- There is a clear causal relationship between the measurement under consideration and the event that is claimed to have affected the air quality in the area;
- The event is associated with a measured concentration in excess of normal historical fluctuations, including background; and
- There would have been no exceedance or violation but for the event.

Technical Support Document for Public Review

Members of the public may review copies of the draft TSD at the Ute Indian Tribe's Energy and Minerals Department's Air Quality Office at 988 S. 7500 E., Annex Building, Ft. Duchesne, Utah; at the Utah Division of Air Quality, 195 N 1950 W, Salt Lake City, Utah; and at the U.S. EPA Region 8 office, 1595 Wynkoop Street, Denver, Colorado. All documents will be available for review at the U.S. EPA Region 8 office Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. (excluding Federal holidays). Electronic copies of the draft TSD may also be viewed at <https://www.epa.gov/air-quality-analysis/public-notice-exceptional-events-uinta-basin-utah>

Please submit your comments by September 29, 2016. All comments should be addressed to Richard Payton, U.S. EPA, Region 8, Air Program (8P-AR), 1595 Wynkoop Street, Denver, CO 80202 or at payton.richard@epa.gov.